(b) if so, whether the judgement of the Supreme Court is applicable to the remaining unfilled posts which were held by the Departmental candidates for determining their seniority vis-a-vis the direct recruits;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the number of posts in the service in grade IV which have been filled up during 1964—84 on the basis of 25 per cent of the vacancies by a selection from amongst officers serving in offices under the economic course recognised for this purpose by the controlling authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement of 11-2-1986 mentioned that by the year, 1984, in all there were 435 vacancies for direct recruits, out of which 342 posts were filled up by direct recruitment. In all, 93 post intended for direct recruits, remained unfilled and most of them were held by persons who had been promoted from the feeder posts.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to that all persons who are stated to have been promoted to several posts in Gr. IV, as having been regularly appointed to the said posts in Gr. IV and assign them seniority in the Cadre w.e.f. the dates of their continuous officiation. The direct recruits to Grade IV will be assigned seniority w.e.f. the date on which their names were recommended by the Union Public Service Commission. The remaining unfilled vacancies will be filled up in accordance with the IES rules i.e. not more than 40 per cent by promotion from amongst feeder post holders and not less than 60 per cent by direct recruitment.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Acturial valuation for gratuity and pensions funds

971. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make acturial valuation compulsory for gratuity and pension funds under the provisions of the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, whether it is going to be an annual valuation or once in two or three years;

(c) whether Government propose to approve actuaries for this purpose; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to stipulate method under Income Tax Act for funding gratuity and pension funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Madam. There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962 which prescribe the basis for contribution to the approved gratuity and superannuation funds.

Transfer of Central Government officers to insurance corporation

972. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to transfer Central Government officers to either of the Insurance Corporations, i.e. Life Insurance Corporation or General Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for effecting such transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A request from Chairman, General Insurance Corporation of India has been received asking for the services, of senior Government officers for induction into the cadre of General Managers in the general insurance industry, on permanent absorption basis. Government have taken note of this reference for such action as may be found necessary.

Permission to float 'India fund' by Merrill Lynch and Company of the United States

973. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American business corporation. Merrill Lynch and Company has been permitted by the Government of India to float an investment fund, called 'India Fund' to attract equity finance from outside India, if so, what are the details of the fund and the precise object thereof; and

(b) whether Government's approval for floating this fund signifies a change in their policy, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Government have approved the establishment of a mutual fund company/trust called the 'India International Fund' by UTI and Merrill Lynch of USA with an initial capital of $60 million. The equity capital of the fund will be raised from foreign institutional and individual investors, as well as non-resident Indians. The capital raised by the Fund will be invested in a Special Unit Scheme of Unit Trust of India (UTI) and the UTI in turn would be investing the amount so received in India. The main advantage of the Scheme is that additional resources for investment would be available to the country, and that this will also help the development of the Indian capital market.

(b) The approval given by the Government for the establishment of the fund does not signify a change in the policy of the Government

Dismissal/Suspension of officers and employees of the Ministry of Finance

974. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officers and employees of the Ministry of Finance were compulsorily retired, dismissed or suspended during the period from 1st December, 1985 to 10th February, 1986; if so, what is their number and the grounds on which such action was taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these officers and employees were found to be involved in anti-national activities. and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house as soon as possible.